

**CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**  
**NOTICE OF FINDINGS**  
**California Brown Pelican**  
*(Pelecanus occidentalis californicus)*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2075.5 of the Fish and Game Code, the California Fish and Game Commission, at its November 14, 2008, meeting in Huntington Beach, made a finding that the petitioned action to remove the California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) from the list of endangered species is warranted.

The basis for the delisting relied most heavily on the following: 1) The breeding population size of the brown pelican in the Channel Islands has increased from 1969 to the present, after the banning of DDT, and now exceeds the five-year mean 3,000 pair standard noted in the recovery plan (current Channel Islands population size for 2006 is roughly 8,500 breeding pairs); 2) Brown pelicans have gradually expanded their nesting sites in the Channel Islands to former breeding sites, and numbers on Santa Barbara Island have increased substantially since 2001; 3) Productivity has increased to 0.7 and now meets or exceeds the five-year mean 0.7 standard noted in the recovery plan for downlisting; 4) Relative to the five-year mean standard for fledged young in the recovery plan, brown pelicans at West Anacapa Island have achieved the 2,700 fledgling standard for delisting 9 times from 1997-2005; 5) In spite of known threats (*i.e.*, oil spills, human disturbance, starvation events, domoic acid poisoning, fish hook/line mortality), the breeding population of brown pelicans in California has increased substantially; and 6) Nesting sites are under generally-protective National Park Service ownership or management. If delisted, the brown pelican will remain a fully protected species under Fish and Game Code Section 3511(b)(2).

It is anticipated that the Commission will ratify the findings at a hearing to be held at the East End Complex Auditorium, 1500 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, California, on February 6, 2009, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

The notice of proposed regulatory action to amend Section 670.5, Title 14, CCR, was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 19, 2008.

Fish and Game Commission

January 6, 2009

John Carlson, Jr.  
Executive Director